

U S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 32860-000301/US
FORM PTO-1390 OFFICE (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10 / 089304</b>
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE00/03261	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE September 15, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED September 30, 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION DEVICE FOR ARRANGING THE ACTUATING SHAFT OF A LOW-VOLTAGE CIRCUIT BREAKER AND MULTIPOLE LOW-VOLTAGE CIRCUIT BREAKER WITH A DEVICE FOR ARRANGING THE ACTUATING SHAFT		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Michael BACH; Detlev SCHMIDT; Michael SEBEKOW; Guenter SEIDLER-STAHL; Ingo THIEDE and Sezai TUERKMEN		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39 (1).</p> <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). WO 01/24208 A1</li> <li>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ul> </p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith.</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4)</li> </ul> </p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ul> </p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p>		
Items 11. to 20. below concern document(s) or information included:		
<p>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98-1449 and International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210) in German with Three (3) references and a German Translation Aid.</p> <p>12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</p> <p>15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821-1.825.</p> <p>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</p> <p>20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Two (2) sheets of Formal Drawings</li> </ul> </p>		

APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) **1089304**

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO

PCT/DE00/03261

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

32860-000301/US

21.  The following fees are submitted.**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)  
 nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO  
 and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. .... **\$1,040.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to  
 USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO. .... **\$890.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO  
 but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO. .... **\$710.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO  
 but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4). .... **\$690.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO  
 and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4). .... **\$100.00**

**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**

Surchage of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than  20  30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total Claims	10 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$ 0
Independent Claims	2 - 3 =	0	X \$84.00	\$ 0
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)	None		+ \$280.00	\$

**TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =** **\$ 890.00**

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.

**SUBTOTAL =** **\$ 890.00**

Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than  20  30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

**TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =** **\$ 890.00**

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **\$40.00** per property + **\$ 40.00**

**TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =** **\$ 930.00**

Amount to be:	\$
refunded	
charged	\$

A check in the amount of **\$ 930.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.

Please charge my Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of **\$** to cover the above fees.  
 A triplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

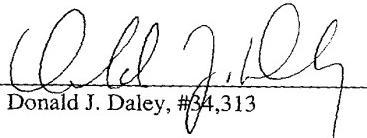
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.37(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

all correspondence to:

Business, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C – Customer No. 30596  
 Office Box 8910  
 ton, Virginia 20195

As of **March 29, 2002**

By   
 Donald J. Daley, #34,313

10/089304

JC15 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 MAR 2002

PATENT  
32860-000301/US

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Michael BACH; Detlev SCHMIDT; Michael SEBEKOW; Guenter SEIDLER-STAHL; Ingo THIEDE; Sezai TUERKMEN.

Int'l App. No.: PCT/DE00/03261

Application No.: NEW

Filed: March 29, 2002

For: DEVICE FOR ARRANGING THE ACTUATING SHAFT OF A LOW-VOLTAGE CIRCUIT BREAKER AND MULTIPOLE LOW-VOLTAGE CIRCUIT BREAKER WITH A DEVICE FOR ARRANGING THE ACTUATING SHAFT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

March 29, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the attached revised Abstract.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A bearing arrangement for a switching shaft of a low-voltage circuit breaker, in which two coupling levers are arranged at a distance from one another on an integral switching shaft, for mechanical connection of a movable switching contact associated with one switch pole, comprising:

a bearing assembly, connected to a housing front wall of the switch pole and including a bearing body mounted on the housing front wall of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft in the form of a half shell, and wherein a first subregion of the bearing body is arranged between the coupling levers and forms side guide surfaces for the coupling levers, which are connected to the switching shaft.

2. (Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the bearing body includes a second subregion, which projects axially beyond the coupling levers and forms stop surfaces for the coupling levers.

3. (Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bearing assembly includes a catch hook, whose mating piece forms a bolt which passes through the coupling levers, with the catch hook being mounted in a recess in the bearing body so as to be pivotable.

4. (Amended) A multipole low-voltage circuit breaker including a bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1.

*Please add the following new claims:*

-- 5. The arrangement as claimed in claim 2, wherein the bearing assembly includes a catch hook, whose mating piece forms a bolt which passes through the coupling levers, with the catch hook being mounted in a recess in the bearing body so as to be pivotable.

6. A multipole low-voltage circuit breaker including a bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 2.

7. A multipole low-voltage circuit breaker including a bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 3.

8. A multipole low-voltage circuit breaker comprising:

a plurality of switching contacts;  
a switching shaft, in which two coupling levers are arranged on the switching shaft for mechanical connection of each movable switching contact, associated with a switch pole; and

a bearing assembly connected to a housing front wall of the switch pole and including a bearing body mounted on the housing front wall of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft in the form of a half shell, wherein a first subregion of the bearing body is arranged between the coupling levers and forms side guide surfaces for the coupling levers, which are connected to the switching shaft.

9. The multipole low-voltage circuit breaker of claim 8, wherein the bearing body includes a second subregion, which projects axially beyond the coupling levers and forms stop surfaces for the coupling levers.

10. The multipole low-voltage circuit breaker of claim 8, wherein the bearing assembly includes a catch hook, whose mating piece forms a bolt which passes through the coupling levers, with the catch hook being mounted in a recess in the bearing body so as to be pivotable. --

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are now present in this application, with new claims 5-10 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 1-4 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, amendments have been made to broaden the claims;

remove reference numerals in the claims; remove the European phrase "characterized in that"; remove multiple dependencies in the claims; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. form, including the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" as well as the phrase "wherein". Other such non-narrowing amendments include placing apparatus-type claims (setting elements forth in separate paragraphs) in a more recognizable U.S. form. Again, all amendments are non-narrowing and have been made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

#### **SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.125, a substitute specification has been included in lieu of substitute paragraphs in connection with the present Preliminary Amendment. The substitute specification is submitted in clean form, attached hereto, and is accompanied by a marked-up version showing the changes made to the original specification. The changes have been made in an effort to place the specification in better form for U.S. practice. No new matter has been added by these changes to the specification. Further, the substitute specification includes paragraph numbers to facilitate amendment practice as requested by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-10 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the

New PCT National Phase Application  
Docket No.: 32860-000301/US

telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C

By:   
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DJD:kna

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In order to provide a bearing for an already prepositioned switching shaft, fitted with coupling levers, of a low-voltage circuit breaker in the region where the switching forces act, a bearing assembly is provided. The bearing assembly includes a bearing body which is mounted on the housing front wall of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft in the form of a half shell. The bearing body includes a subregion which projects between two coupling levers, which are at a distance from one another and are connected to a movable switching contact. It thus forms side guide surfaces for the coupling levers. Such a bearing assembly can be arranged in both the end regions of the switching shaft in multipole circuit breakers.

## SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

### DEVICE FOR ARRANGING THE ACTUATING SHAFT OF A LOW -VOLTAGE CIRCUIT BREAKER AND MULTIPOLE LOW-VOLTAGE CIRCUIT BREAKER WITH A DEVICE FOR ARRANGING THE ACTUATING SHAFT

[0001] This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/DE00/03261 which has an International filing date of September 15, 2000, which designated the United States of America, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

#### **Field of the Invention**

[0002] The invention generally relates to the field of the design configuration of a circuit breaker which is used in low-voltage networks. It may be related to one which is applicable to the configuration of the bearing for the integral switching shaft of such a switch.

#### **Background of the Invention**

[0003] Low-voltage circuit breakers have one or more switch poles. The switching contact systems, which include fixed and movable switching contacts, of these switch poles are normally mechanically connected to coupling levers, which are arranged on a switching shaft which is common to all the switch poles.

[0004] For such a circuit breaker to operate correctly, it is essential for the switching shaft to have radially precise bearings, with little axial play. A known bearing arrangement which is suitable for this purpose has, in the region of the coupling levers, a bearing assembly which is connected to a housing front wall of the switch pole and contains a bearing body with a cylindrical bearing surface. The production of the switching shaft and its installation are simplified by subdivision into two symmetrical subelements. Each subelement is provided with a radial bearing and an axial bearing at one end by means of the main bearing body. Two further auxiliary bearing bodies are required for the complete axial bearing.

[0005] In the case of an integral switching shaft, such a shaft would be permanently connected to the main bearing body by the coupling levers, which are arranged in fixed positions on both sides of the main bearing body. If the main bearing body is faulty, the entire switching shaft must be replaced together with it (DE 197 39 702 C1).

[0006] In another known bearing arrangement, the integral switching shaft, which is fitted with all the coupling levers, can be prepositioned in its installed position, independently of the bearing assembly. In this case, the switching shaft is positioned in recesses, which are open at the edges, in walls which are arranged at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the switching shaft. One shaft bearing, which includes two half shells, is then inserted in the axial direction into each of the recesses. Such a shaft bearing provides a radial bearing for the

switching shaft away from the points at which the switching forces act. The location of the axial bearing is not mentioned (DE 44 16 090 C1).

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0007] An embodiment of the invention includes an object of designing the bearing assembly such that the switching shaft, which is already prepositioned in its installed position and is provided with the coupling levers, is mounted at the point where the switching forces act. This can be done in a manner such that it is insensitive to tolerances and is convenient for assembly.

[0008] According to an embodiment of the invention, an object can be achieved by the bearing body being mounted on the housing front wall of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft in the form of a half shell, and by a first subregion of the bearing body being arranged between the coupling levers and forming side guide surfaces for the coupling levers which are connected to the switching shaft.

[0009] This configuration allows the bearing assembly and the switching shaft to be replaced independently of one another at any time.

[0010] In this case, the bearing assembly has a simple construction and can thus be produced cost-effectively. In addition, it is compact and can thus be installed easily and in a space-saving manner. In addition, the switching shaft bearing can be very largely independent of tolerances, since the switching shaft uses the same bearing body for both radial and axial bearing.

[0011] Stops for the on and off positions of the switching contacts can be provided easily, according to one development of the invention, in that a second subregion of the bearing body projects axially beyond the coupling levers and forms stop surfaces for the coupling levers.

[0012] If the catch hook, which is normally used in an arrangement such as this, is mounted in a window-like recess in the bearing body such that it can pivot, and the mating piece is in the form of a bolt which passes through the coupling levers, this additional element is integrated in a space-saving manner in the bearing assembly.

[0013] One arrangement designed according to the invention for the switching shaft bearing is expediently used in multipole low-voltage circuit breakers in such a way that a bearing assembly at each of the two ends of the switching shaft is associated with the axially outer movable switching contacts. The switching shaft bearing is thus defined statically.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

[0014] An exemplary embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figures 1-4 of the drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 shows a bearing assembly with a bearing body designed according to an embodiment of the invention,

Figure 2 shows an integral switching shaft with two bearing assemblies (as shown in Figure 1) arranged at its ends, viewed in perspective, and

Figures 3 and 4 show section illustrations of a bearing assembly arranged as shown in Figure 2.

### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

[0015] Figure 1 shows a bearing assembly 1 with a bearing body 2 and a catch device 3. The bearing body 2 is subdivided into a number of subregions 4, 5, 6, 7, 71 and 72, which are used to provide the bearing for a switching shaft 8, which is illustrated in Figure 2, the stop for coupling levers 9 and 10 during the switching-on and switching-off processes, the holder for the catch device 3 and the mounting for the bearing assembly 1 on one housing front wall 25 of the switch poles.

[0016] As is shown in Figure 2, the switching shaft 8 is mounted close to its ends by two bearing assemblies 1 as shown in Figure 1. Two coupling levers 9 and 10 are arranged in each end region of the switching shaft 8 and are used to provide the mechanical connection for a movable switching contact 11 which is associated with an outer switch pole. For this purpose, they are arranged in a fixed position on the switching shaft 8, and are at the same time used to provide the axial bearing for the switching shaft 8. Each bearing assembly 1 has in each case one first subregion 4, whose axial width is matched to the distance between the coupling levers 9 and 10. This first subregion 4 of the bearing body 2 accordingly projects with a small amount of axial play between the coupling levers 9 and 10 and surrounds the switching shaft 8 in the form of a half shell in one direction, which is the opposite direction to that in which the forces occur during the connection process. This first subregion 4 of the bearing body 2 thus forms side guide surfaces 13 (see Figure 1) for the coupling levers 9 and 10, which are connected in a fixed manner to the switching shaft 8.

[0017] A second subregion 5 projects beyond the coupling levers 9 and 10 axially and forms stop surfaces 14 (see Figure 1) and 15 for the coupling levers 9 and 10, in order to limit the movement of the switching shaft 8. The catch device 3 of each bearing assembly 1 has a catch hook 16 which, during the switching-off process, engages behind a bolt 17 (see also Figure 4), which passes through both coupling levers 9 and 10. The catch hook 16 is arranged on a bearing bolt 19 in a window-like recess 18 in a third subregion 6 of the bearing body 2, and is mounted such that it can pivot against the force of a wire torsion spring 20. The catch hook 16 and the wire torsion spring 20 can thus be integrated in the bearing assembly easily and in a space-saving manner even before the installation of the bearing assembly 1.

[0018] Figure 3 shows a section through the first and third subregions 4 and 6 of the bearing body 2. The window-like recess 18 for the catch hook 16 has a narrow upper region 21 (see

Figure 1) and a broader lower region 22 (see Figure 1). The narrow upper region 21 is matched to the width of the catch hook 16 and fixes it axially, except for a small amount of play. The broader lower region 22 is used to provide additional retention for the wire torsion spring 20. The coupling levers 9 and 10 are in the on position here.

[0019] The two bearing assemblies 1 have holes 23 in further subregions 7, 71 and 72 (see also Figure 1) and are connected in a force-fitting and interlocking manner by means of screw connections 24 to the housing front wall 25 of the switch poles. This housing front wall 25 may have a depression 26 in the form of a half shell, as illustrated in Figure 2, in order to predetermine the installation position of the switching shaft 8, and hence to simplify installation of the switching shaft.

[0020] Depending on the length of the switching shaft, auxiliary bearing bodies can be arranged in a known manner to provide an additional bearing for the switching shaft. However, all the switch poles of a multipole low-voltage circuit breaker may also have an associated bearing assembly as shown in Figure 1.

[0021] Figure 4 shows a section through the second subregion 5 of the bearing body 2, which extends axially outside the coupling levers 9 and 10. Here, however, the coupling levers 9 and 10 are in the off position. At least one of the two coupling levers 9 and 10 is designed such that, during a switching-off process, a section 27 of the circumferential edge of this coupling lever abuts against a first surface 14, which is used as an off stop, of the bearing body 2.

[0022] At least one of the two coupling levers 9 and 10 may have a cantilever arm 28 like a hooked nose which, during a switching-on process, abuts against a second surface 15, which is used as an on stop, of the bearing body. An on stop such as this is required, for example, in current-limiting low-voltage circuit breakers.

[0023] The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

**Description**

DEVICE FOR ARRANGING THE ACTUATING SHAFT OF A LOW -VOLTAGE CIRCUIT BREAKER AND MULTIPOLE LOW-VOLTAGE CIRCUIT BREAKER WITH A DEVICE FOR ARRANGING THE ACTUATING SHAFT  
~~Bearing arrangement for the switching shaft of a low voltage circuit breaker, and a multipole low voltage circuit breaker having a bearing arrangement for the switching shaft~~

This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/ which has an International filing date of , which designated the United States of America, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

**Field of the Invention**

The invention generally relates to the field of the design configuration of a circuit breaker which is used in low-voltage networks. It may be related to one which and is applicable to the configuration of the bearing for the integral switching shaft of such a switch.

**Background of the Invention**

Low-voltage circuit breakers have one or more switch poles. The switching contact systems, which include~~comprise~~ fixed and movable switching contacts, of these switch poles are normally mechanically connected to coupling levers, which are arranged on a switching shaft which is common to all the switch poles.

For such a circuit breaker to operate correctly, it is essential for the switching shaft to have radially precise bearings, with little axial play. A known bearing arrangement which is suitable for this purpose has, in the region of the coupling levers, a bearing assembly which is connected to a housing front wall of the switch pole and contains a bearing body with a cylindrical bearing surface. The production of the switching shaft and its installation are simplified by

subdivision into two symmetrical subelements. Each subelement is provided with a radial bearing and an axial bearing at one end by means of the main bearing body. Two further auxiliary bearing bodies are required for the complete axial bearing. In the case of an integral switching shaft, such a shaft would be permanently connected to the main bearing body by the coupling levers, which are arranged in fixed positions on both sides of the main bearing body. If the main bearing body is faulty, the entire switching shaft must be replaced together with it (DE 197 39 702 C1).

In another known bearing arrangement, the integral switching shaft, which is fitted with all the coupling levers, can be prepositioned in its installed position, independently of the bearing assembly. In this case, the switching shaft is positioned in recesses, which are open at the edges, in walls which are arranged at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the switching shaft. One shaft bearing, which includes ~~comprises~~ two half shells, is then inserted in the axial direction into each of the recesses. Such a shaft bearing provides a radial bearing for the switching shaft away from the points at which the switching forces act. The location of the axial bearing is not mentioned (DE 44 16 090 C1).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An embodiment of Against the background of an arrangement  
having the features of the precharacterizing clause of claim 1  
(DE 197 39 702 C1), the invention includes and based on the  
object of designing the bearing assembly such that the switching shaft, which is already prepositioned in its installed position and is provided with the coupling levers, is mounted at the point where the switching forces act. This  
can be done, in a manner such that it is insensitive to tolerances and is convenient for assembly.

According to an embodiment of the invention, an this object can be is achieved by in that the bearing body being is mounted on the housing front wall of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft in the form of a half shell, and by in that a first subregion of the bearing body being is arranged between the coupling levers and forming side guide surfaces for the coupling levers which are connected to the switching shaft. This configuration allows the bearing assembly and the switching shaft to be replaced independently of one another at any time.

In this case, the bearing assembly has a simple construction and can thus be produced cost-effectively. In addition, it is compact and can thus be installed easily and in a space-saving manner. In addition, the switching shaft bearing can be is very largely independent of tolerances, since the switching shaft uses the same bearing body for both radial and axial bearing.

Stops for the on and off positions of the switching contacts can be provided easily, according to one development of the invention, in that a second subregion of the bearing body projects axially beyond the coupling levers and forms stop surfaces for the coupling levers.

If the catch hook, which is normally used in an arrangement such as this, is mounted in a window-like recess in the bearing body such that it can pivot, and the mating piece is in the form of a bolt which passes through the coupling levers, this additional element is integrated in a space-saving manner in the bearing assembly.

One arrangement designed according to the invention for the switching shaft bearing is expediently used in multipole low-voltage circuit breakers in such a way that a bearing assembly at each of the two ends of the switching shaft is associated with the axially outer movable switching contacts. The switching shaft bearing is thus defined statically.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

An exemplary embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figures 1-4 of the drawings, wherein:-  
In this case:

Figure 1 shows a bearing assembly with a bearing body designed according to an embodiment of the invention,

Figure 2 shows an integral switching shaft with two bearing assemblies (as shown in Figure 1) arranged at its ends, viewed in perspective, and

Figures 3 and 4 show section illustrations of a bearing assembly arranged as shown in Figure 2.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

Figure 1 shows a bearing assembly 1 with a bearing body 2 and a catch device 3. The bearing body 2 is subdivided into a number of subregions 4, 5, 6, 7, 71 and 72, which are used to provide the bearing for a switching shaft 8, which is illustrated in Figure 2, the stop for coupling levers 9 and 10 during the switching-on and switching-off processes, the holder for the catch device 3 and the mounting for the bearing assembly 1 on one housing front wall 25 of the switch poles.

As is shown in Figure 2, the switching shaft 8 is mounted close to its ends by two bearing assemblies 1 as shown in Figure 1. Two coupling levers 9 and 10 are arranged in each end region of the switching shaft 8 and are used to provide the mechanical connection for a movable switching contact 11 which is associated with an outer switch pole, and for this purpose, they are arranged in a fixed position on the switching shaft 8, and are at the same time used to provide the axial bearing for the switching shaft 8. Each bearing assembly 1 has in each case one first subregion 4, whose axial

width is matched to the distance between the coupling levers 9 and 10. This first subregion 4 of the bearing body 2 accordingly projects with a small amount of axial play between the coupling levers 9 and 10 and surrounds the switching shaft 8 in the form of a half shell in one direction, which is the opposite direction to that in which the forces occur during the connection process. This first subregion 4 of the bearing body 2 thus forms side guide surfaces 13 (see Figure 1) for the coupling levers 9 and 10, which are connected in a fixed manner to the switching shaft 8.

A second subregion 5 projects beyond the coupling levers 9 and 10 axially and forms stop surfaces 14 (see Figure 1) and 15 for the coupling levers 9 and 10, in order to limit the movement of the switching shaft 8. The catch device 3 of each bearing assembly 1 has a catch hook 16 which, during the switching-off process, engages behind a bolt 17 (see also Figure 4), which passes through both coupling levers 9 and 10. The catch hook 16 is arranged on a bearing bolt 19 in a window-like recess 18 in a third subregion 6 of the bearing body 2, and is mounted such that it can pivot against the force of a wire torsion spring 20. The catch hook 16 and the wire torsion spring 20 can thus be integrated in the bearing assembly easily and in a space-saving manner even before the installation of the bearing assembly 1.

Figure 3 shows a section through the first and third subregions 4 and 6 of the bearing body 2. The window-like recess 18 for the catch hook 16 has a narrow upper region 21 (see Figure 1) and a broader lower region 22 (see Figure 1). The narrow upper region 21 is matched to the width of the catch hook 16 and fixes it axially, except for a small amount of play. The broader lower region 22 is used to provide additional retention for the wire torsion spring 20. The coupling levers 9 and 10 are in the on position here.

The two bearing assemblies 1 have holes 23 in further subregions 7, 71 and 72 (see also Figure 1) and are connected in a force-fitting and interlocking manner by means of screw connections 24 to the housing front wall 25 of the switch poles. This housing front wall 25 may have a depression 26 in the form of a half shell, as illustrated in Figure 2, in order to predetermine the installation position of the switching shaft 8, and hence to simplify installation of the switching shaft.

Depending on the length of the switching shaft, auxiliary bearing bodies can be arranged in a known manner to provide an additional bearing for the switching shaft. However, all the switch poles of a multipole low-voltage circuit breaker may also have an associated bearing assembly as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 shows a section through the second subregion 5 of the bearing body 2, which extends axially outside the coupling levers 9 and 10. Here, however, the coupling levers 9 and 10 are in the off position. At least one of the two coupling levers 9 and 10 is designed such that, during a switching-off process, a section 27 of the circumferential edge of this coupling lever abuts against a first surface 14, which is used as an off stop, of the bearing body 2.

At least one of the two coupling levers 9 and 10 may have a cantilever arm 28 like a hooked nose which, during a switching-on process, abuts against a second surface 15, which is used as an on stop, of the bearing body. An on stop such as this is required, for example, in current-limiting low-voltage circuit breakers.

The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is: Patent Claims

1. (Amended) A bearing arrangement for ~~at~~ the switching shaft (8) of a low-voltage circuit breaker, in which two coupling levers (9, 10) are arranged at a distance from one another on ~~an~~ the integral switching shaft (8), for mechanical connection of a movable switching contact (11) which is associated with one switch pole, comprising:

~~and in which a bearing assembly, (1) which is connected to a housing front wall (25) of the switch pole and including has a bearing body (2) is arranged in the region of the coupling levers (9, 10), characterized in that the bearing body (2) is mounted on the housing front wall (25) of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft (8) in the form of a half shell, and wherein a first subregion (4) of the bearing body (2) is arranged between the coupling levers (9, 10) and forms side guide surfaces (13) for the coupling levers, (9, 10) which are connected to the switching shaft (8).~~
2. (Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bearing body includes characterized in that ~~a second subregion, which (5) of the bearing body (2) projects axially beyond the coupling levers (9, 10) and forms stop surfaces (14, 15) for the coupling levers (9, 10).~~
3. (Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein characterized in that ~~the bearing assembly includes (1) has a catch hook (16), whose mating piece forms a bolt (17) which passes through the coupling levers (9, 10), with the catch hook (16) being mounted in a window like recess (18) in the bearing body (2) so as to be pivotable such that it~~

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ean pivot.

4. (Amended) A multipole low-voltage circuit breaker including a bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 1.

A multipole low voltage circuit breaker having a bearing arrangement for the switching shaft (8), in which two coupling levers (9, 10) are in each case arranged on the switching shaft (8) for mechanical connection of each movable switching contact (11) which is associated with a switch pole, and one bearing assembly (1), having a bearing body (2) designed as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, is associated with each of the two coupling levers (9, 10) of the two axially outer movable switching contacts (11). NEW

5. The arrangement as claimed in claim 2, wherein the bearing assembly includes a catch hook, whose mating piece forms a bolt which passes through the coupling levers, with the catch hook being mounted in a recess in the bearing body so as to be pivotable.

6. A multipole low-voltage circuit breaker including a bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 2.

7. A multipole low-voltage circuit breaker including a bearing arrangement as claimed in claim 3.

8. A multipole low-voltage circuit breaker comprising:  
a plurality of switching contacts;  
a switching shaft, in which two coupling levers are arranged on the switching shaft for mechanical connection of each movable switching contact, associated with a switch pole; and  
a bearing assembly connected to a housing front wall of the switch pole and including a bearing body mounted on the housing front wall of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft in the form of a half shell, wherein a first subregion of the bearing body is arranged between the coupling levers and forms side guide surfaces for the

coupling levers, which are connected to the switching shaft.

9. The multipole low-voltage circuit breaker of claim 8, wherein the bearing body includes a second subregion, which projects axially beyond the coupling levers and forms stop surfaces for the coupling levers.

10. The multipole low-voltage circuit breaker of claim 8, wherein the bearing assembly includes a catch hook, whose mating piece forms a bolt which passes through the coupling levers, with the catch hook being mounted in a recess in the bearing body so as to be pivotable.

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Abstract

Bearing arrangement for the switching shaft of a low voltage circuit breaker, and a multipole low voltage circuit breaker having a bearing arrangement for the switching shaft ABSTRACT

In order to provide a bearing for an the already prepositioned switching shaft 8, which is fitted with coupling levers 9 and 10, of a low-voltage circuit breaker in the region where the switching forces act, at the bearing assembly 1 which is is provided. The bearing assembly includes for this purpose has a bearing body 2 which is mounted on the housing front wall 25 of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft 8—in the form of a half shell. The bearing body includes has a subregion 4 which projects between two coupling levers 9 and 10, which are at a distance from one another and are connected to a movable switching contact 11, and. It thus forms side guide surfaces 13 for the coupling levers 9 and 10. Such a bearing assembly 1 such as this can be arranged in both the end regions of the switching shaft 8—in multipole circuit breakers.

Figure 2

## Description

Bearing arrangement for the switching shaft of a low-voltage circuit breaker, and a multipole low-voltage circuit breaker having a bearing arrangement for the switching shaft

The invention relates to the field of the design configuration of a circuit breaker which is used in low-voltage networks, and is applicable to the configuration of the bearing for the integral switching shaft of such a switch.

Low-voltage circuit breakers have one or more switch poles. The switching contact systems, which comprise fixed and movable switching contacts, of these switch poles are normally mechanically connected to coupling levers, which are arranged on a switching shaft which is common to all the switch poles.

For such a circuit breaker to operate correctly, it is essential for the switching shaft to have radially precise bearings, with little axial play. A known bearing arrangement which is suitable for this purpose has, in the region of the coupling levers, a bearing assembly which is connected to a housing front wall of the switch pole and contains a bearing body with a cylindrical bearing surface. The production of the switching shaft and its installation are simplified by subdivision into two symmetrical subelements. Each subelement is provided with a radial bearing and an axial bearing at one end by means of the main bearing body. Two further auxiliary bearing bodies are required for the complete axial bearing.

In the case of an integral switching shaft, such a shaft would be permanently connected to the main bearing body by the coupling levers, which are arranged in fixed positions on both sides of the main bearing  
5 body. If the main bearing body is faulty, the entire switching shaft must be replaced together with it (DE 197 39 702 C1).

In another known bearing arrangement, the integral  
10 switching shaft, which is fitted with all the coupling levers, can be prepositioned in its installed position, independently of the bearing assembly. In this case, the switching shaft is positioned in recesses, which are open at the edges, in walls which are arranged at  
15 right angles to the longitudinal axis of the switching shaft. One shaft bearing, which comprises two half shells, is then inserted in the axial direction into each of the recesses. Such a shaft bearing provides a radial bearing for the switching shaft away from the  
20 points at which the switching forces act. The location of the axial bearing is not mentioned (DE 44 16 090 C1).

Against the background of an arrangement having the  
25 features of the precharacterizing clause of claim 1 (DE 197 39 702 C1), the invention is based on the object of designing the bearing assembly such that the switching shaft, which is already prepositioned in its installed position and is provided with the coupling  
30 levers, is mounted at the point where the switching forces act, in a manner such that it is insensitive to tolerances and is convenient for assembly.

According to the invention, this object is achieved in  
35 that the bearing body is mounted on the housing front wall of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft in the form of a half shell, and in that a first subregion of the bearing body is arranged between the

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coupling levers and forms side guide surfaces for the coupling levers which are connected to the switching shaft.

This configuration allows the bearing assembly and the switching shaft to be replaced independently of one another at any time.

- 5 In this case, the bearing assembly has a simple construction and can thus be produced cost-effectively. In addition, it is compact and can thus be installed easily and in a space-saving manner. In addition, the switching shaft bearing is very largely independent of  
10 tolerances, since the switching shaft uses the same bearing body for both radial and axial bearing.

- Stops for the on and off positions of the switching contacts can be provided easily, according to one  
15 development of the invention, in that a second subregion of the bearing body projects axially beyond the coupling levers and forms stop surfaces for the coupling levers.  
20 If the catch hook, which is normally used in an arrangement such as this, is mounted in a window-like recess in the bearing body such that it can pivot, and the mating piece is in the form of a bolt which passes through the coupling levers, this additional element is  
25 integrated in a space-saving manner in the bearing assembly.

- One arrangement designed according to the invention for the switching shaft bearing is expediently used in  
30 multipole low-voltage circuit breakers in such a way that a bearing assembly at each of the two ends of the switching shaft is associated with the axially outer movable switching contacts. The switching shaft bearing is thus defined statically.

- 35 An exemplary embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figures 1-4 of the drawing.

In this case:

Figure 1 shows a bearing assembly with a bearing body designed according to the invention,

5 Figure 2 shows an integral switching shaft with two bearing assemblies (as shown in Figure 1) arranged at its ends, viewed in perspective,

Figures 3 and 4 show section illustrations of a bearing assembly arranged as shown in Figure 2.

10

Figure 1 shows a bearing assembly 1 with a bearing body 2 and a catch device 3. The bearing body 2 is subdivided into a number of subregions 4, 5, 6, 7, 71 and 72, which are used to provide the bearing for a

15 switching shaft 8, which is illustrated in Figure 2, the stop for coupling levers 9 and 10 during the switching-on and switching-off processes, the holder for the catch device 3 and the mounting for the bearing assembly 1 on one housing front wall 25 of the switch 20 poles.

As is shown in Figure 2, the switching shaft 8 is mounted close to its ends by two bearing assemblies 1 as shown in Figure 1. Two coupling levers 9 and 10 are

25 arranged in each end region of the switching shaft 8 and are used to provide the mechanical connection for a movable switching contact 11 which is associated with an outer switch pole, and for this purpose are arranged in a fixed position on the switching shaft 8, and are 30 at the same time used to provide the axial bearing for the switching shaft 8. Each bearing assembly 1 has in each case one first subregion 4, whose axial width is matched to the distance between the coupling levers 9 and 10. This first subregion 4 of the bearing body 2

35 accordingly projects with a small amount of axial play between the coupling levers 9 and 10 and surrounds the switching shaft 8 in the form of a half shell in one direction, which is the opposite direction to that in

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which the forces occur during the connection process.  
This first subregion 4 of the bearing body 2 thus forms

side guide surfaces 13 (see Figure 1) for the coupling levers 9 and 10, which are connected in a fixed manner to the switching shaft 8.

5 A second subregion 5 projects beyond the coupling levers 9 and 10 axially and forms stop surfaces 14 (see Figure 1) and 15 for the coupling levers 9 and 10, in order to limit the movement of the switching shaft 8.  
10 The catch device 3 of each bearing assembly 1 has a catch hook 16 which, during the switching-off process, engages behind a bolt 17 (see also Figure 4), which passes through both coupling levers 9 and 10. The catch hook 16 is arranged on a bearing bolt 19 in a window-like recess 18 in a third subregion 6 of the bearing body 2, and is mounted such that it can pivot against the force of a wire torsion spring 20. The catch hook 16 and the wire torsion spring 20 can thus be integrated in the bearing assembly easily and in a space-saving manner even before the installation of the  
15  
20 bearing assembly 1.

Figure 3 shows a section through the first and third subregions 4 and 6 of the bearing body 2. The window-like recess 18 for the catch hook 16 has a narrow upper region 21 (see Figure 1) and a broader lower region 22 (see Figure 1). The narrow upper region 21 is matched to the width of the catch hook 16 and fixes it axially, except for a small amount of play. The broader lower region 22 is used to provide additional retention for  
25  
30 the wire torsion spring 20. The coupling levers 9 and 10 are in the on position here.

The two bearing assemblies 1 have holes 23 in further subregions 7, 71 and 72 (see also Figure 1) and are  
35 connected in a force-fitting and interlocking manner by means of screw connections 24 to the housing front wall

25 of the switch poles. This housing front wall 25 may have a depression 26 in the form of a half shell, as illustrated in Figure 2, in order to predetermine the installation position of the switching shaft 8, and  
5 hence to simplify installation of the switching shaft.

Depending on the length of the switching shaft, auxiliary bearing bodies can be arranged in a known manner to provide an additional bearing for the  
10 switching shaft. However, all the switch poles of a multipole low-voltage circuit breaker may also have an associated bearing assembly as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 shows a section through the second subregion 5 of the bearing body 2, which extends axially outside the coupling levers 9 and 10. Here, however, the coupling levers 9 and 10 are in the off position. At least one of the two coupling levers 9 and 10 is designed such that, during a switching-off process, a  
20 section 27 of the circumferential edge of this coupling lever abuts against a first surface 14, which is used as an off stop, of the bearing body 2.

At least one of the two coupling levers 9 and 10 may  
25 have a cantilever arm 28 like a hooked nose which, during a switching-on process, abuts against a second surface 15, which is used as an on stop, of the bearing body. An on stop such as this is required, for example, in current-limiting low-voltage circuit breakers.

Patent Claims

1. A bearing arrangement for the switching shaft (8) of a low-voltage circuit breaker,

5       in which two coupling levers (9, 10) are arranged at a distance from one another on the integral switching shaft (8), for mechanical connection of a movable switching contact (11) which is associated with one switch pole, and in which a bearing assembly (1) which is connected to a housing front wall (25) of the switch pole and has a bearing body (2) is arranged in the region of the coupling levers (9, 10),

10      characterized in that

15      - the bearing body (2) is mounted on the housing front wall (25) of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft (8) in the form of a half shell, and

20      - a first subregion (4) of the bearing body (2) is arranged between the coupling levers (9, 10) and forms side guide surfaces (13) for the coupling levers (9, 10) which are connected to the switching shaft (8).

25    2. The arrangement as claimed in claim 1,

characterized in that

a second subregion (5) of the bearing body (2) projects axially beyond the coupling levers (9, 10) and forms stop surfaces (14, 15) for the coupling levers (9, 10).

30    3. The arrangement as claimed in claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that

35      the bearing assembly (1) has a catch hook (16), whose mating piece forms a bolt (17) which passes through the coupling levers (9, 10), with the catch hook (16) being mounted in a window-like recess (18) in the bearing body (2) such that it can pivot.

4. A multipole low-voltage circuit breaker having  
a bearing arrangement for the switching shaft (8),  
in which two coupling levers (9, 10) are in each  
case arranged on the switching shaft (8) for  
5 mechanical connection of each movable switching  
contact (11) which is associated with a switch  
pole, and one bearing assembly (1), having a  
bearing body (2) designed as claimed in one of  
claims 1 to 3, is associated with each of the two  
10 coupling levers (9, 10) of the two axially outer  
movable switching contacts (11).

## Abstract

Bearing arrangement for the switching shaft of a low-voltage circuit breaker, and a multipole low-voltage circuit breaker having a bearing arrangement for the switching shaft

In order to provide a bearing for the already prepositioned switching shaft 8, which is fitted with coupling levers 9 and 10, of a low-voltage circuit breaker in the region where the switching forces act, the bearing assembly 1 which is provided for this purpose has a bearing body 2 which is mounted on the housing front wall 25 of the switch pole, surrounding the switching shaft 8 in the form of a half shell, has a subregion 4 which projects between two coupling levers 9 and 10, which are at a distance from one another and are connected to a movable switching contact 11, and thus forms side guide surfaces 13 for the coupling levers 9 and 10.

A bearing assembly 1 such as this can be arranged in both the end regions of the switching shaft 8 in multipole circuit breakers.

Figure 2

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FIG 1

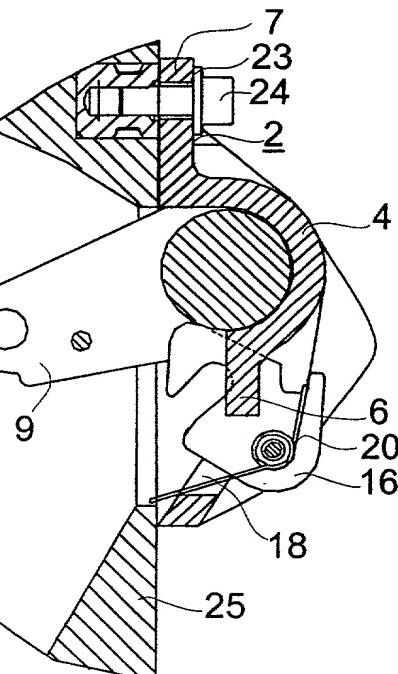
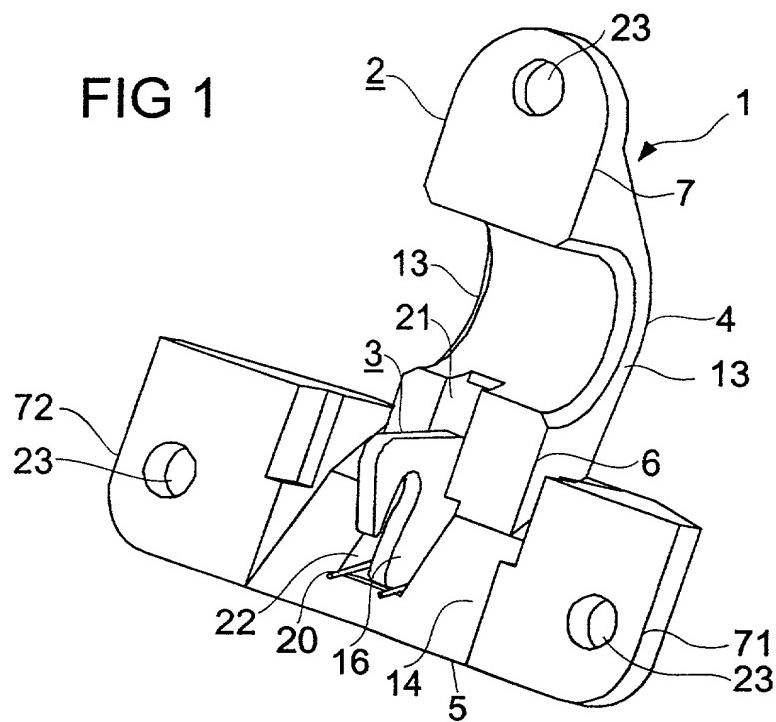


FIG 3

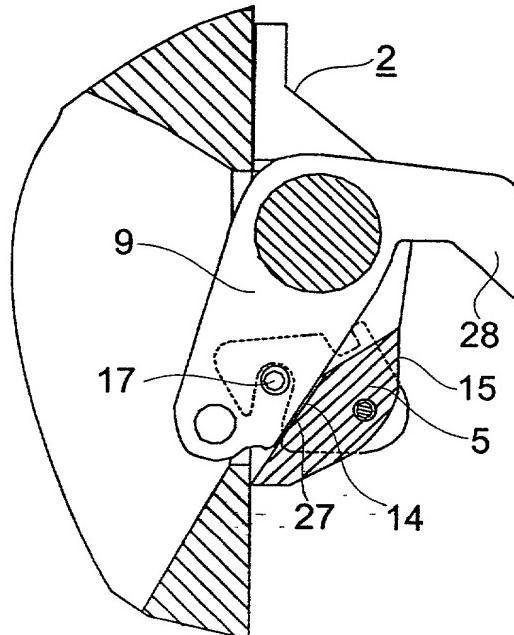


FIG 4

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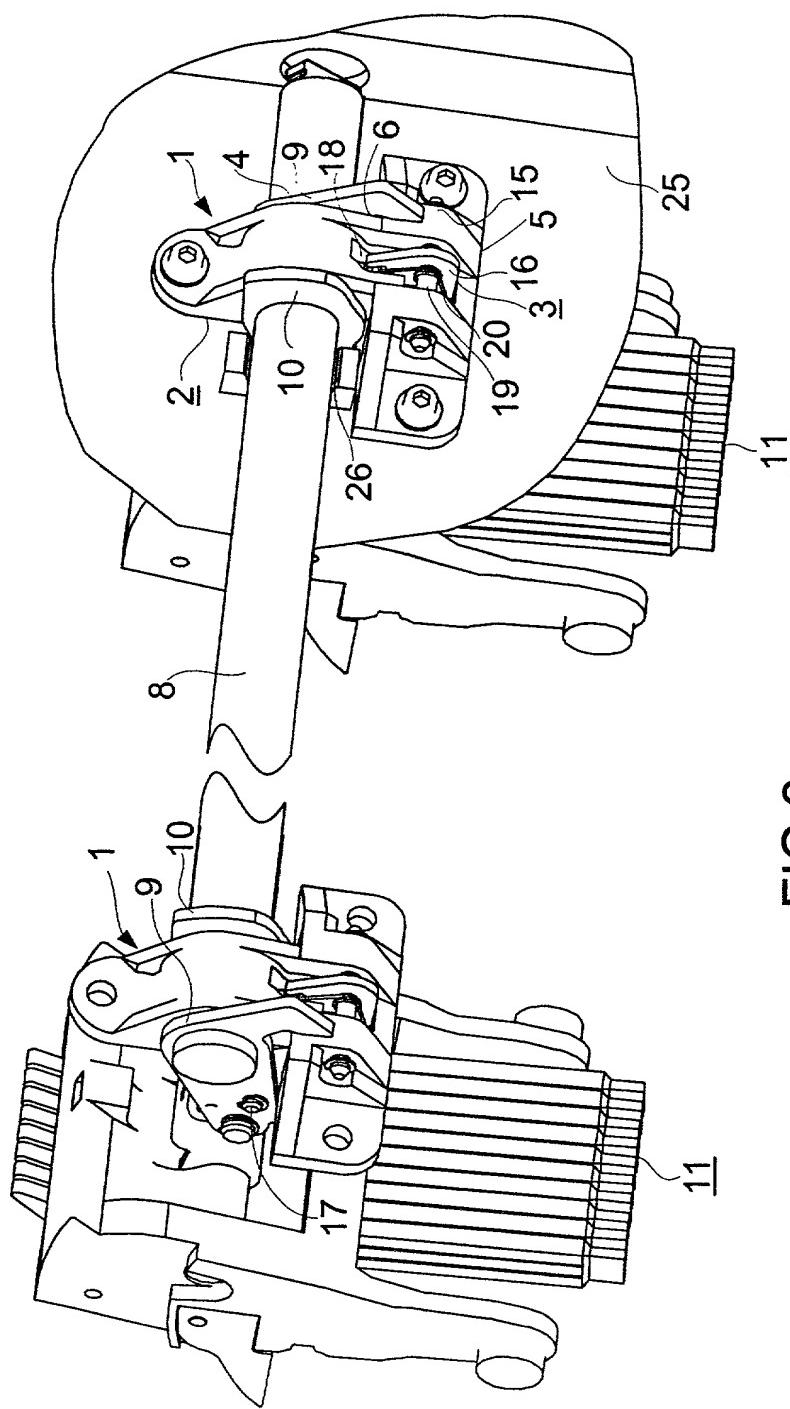


FIG 2

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 German Language Declaration

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit  
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Schaltwelle**

deren Beschreibung

(zutreffendes ankreuzen)

hier beigefügt ist.  
 am 15.09.2000 als  
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 eingereicht wurde und am \_\_\_\_\_  
 abgeändert wurde (falls tatsächlich abgeändert).

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subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent  
is sought on the invention entitled

**DEVICE FOR ARRANGING THE  
ACTUATING SHAFT OF A LOW-  
VOLTAGE CIRCUIT BREAKER AND  
MULTIPOLE LOW-VOLTAGE CIRCUIT  
BREAKER WITH A DEVICE FOR  
ARRANGINNG THE ACTUATING  
SHAFT**

the specification of which

(check one)

is attached hereto.  
 was filed on 15.09.2000 as  
 PCT international application  
 PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/03261  
 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the  
contents of the above identified specification, including  
the claims as amended by any amendment referred to  
above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is  
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accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations,  
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I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35,  
United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s)  
for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have  
also identified below any foreign application for patent  
or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that  
of the application on which priority is claimed:

## **German Language Declaration**

Prior foreign applications  
Priorität beansprucht

## Priority Claimed

<u>19948716.2</u>	<u>DE</u>	<u>30.09.1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
(Number)	(Country)	(Day Month Year Filed)		Ja		Nein
(Nummer)	(Land)	(Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)				
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
(Number)	(Country)	(Day Month Year Filed)		Ja		Nein
(Nummer)	(Land)	(Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)				
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
(Number)	(Country)	(Day Month Year Filed)		Ja		Nein
(Nummer)	(Land)	(Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)				

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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §122, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

PCT/DE00/03261  
(Application Serial No.)  
(Anmeldeseriennummer)

15.09.2000  
(Filing Date D, M, Y)  
(Anmeldedatum T, M, J)

anhängig  
(Status)  
(patentiert, anhängig,  
aufgegeben)

pending  
(Status)  
(patented, pending,  
abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)  
(Anmeldeseriennummer)

(Filing Date D,M,Y)  
(Anmeldedatum T, M, J)

(Status)  
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(patented, pending,  
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## German Language Declaration

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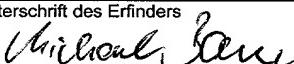
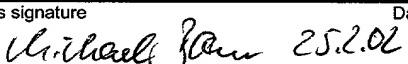
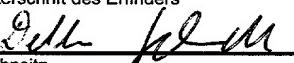
Postanschrift:

Send Correspondence to:

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.  
12355 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 350 20191 Reston, Va.  
Telephone: +1 703 390 3030 and Facsimile +1 703 390 3020

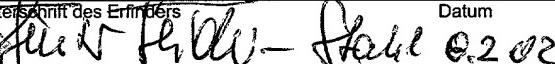
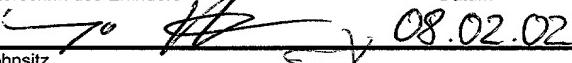
or

**Customer No. 30596**

Voller Name des einzigen oder ursprünglichen Erfinders:		Full name of sole or first inventor:	
<u>Michael Bach</u>		<u>Michael Bach</u>	
Unterschrift des Erfinders	Datum	Inventor's signature	Date
	25.2.02		25.2.02
Wohnsitz	Residence		
Berlin, Deutschland 	Berlin, Germany		
Staatsangehörigkeit	Citizenship		
Deutsch	German		
Postanschrift	Post Office Address		
Ligusterweg 20 A	Ligusterweg 20 A		
12437 Berlin, Deutschland	12437 Berlin, Germany		
Voller Name des zweiten Miterfinders (falls zutreffend):		Full name of second joint inventor, if any:	
<u>Detlev Schmidt</u>		<u>Detlev Schmidt</u>	
Unterschrift des Erfinders	Datum	Second Inventor's signature	Date
	8.2.2002		8.2.2002
Wohnsitz	Residence		
Berlin, Deutschland 	Berlin, Germany		
Staatsangehörigkeit	Citizenship		
Deutsch	German		
Postanschrift	Post Office Address		
Richardstr. 61	Richardstr. 61		
12055 Berlin, Deutschland	12055 Berlin, Germany		

(Bitte entsprechende Informationen und Unterschriften im Falle von dritten und weiteren Miterfindern angeben).

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors).

Voller Name des dritten Miterfinders: <b>Michael Sebekow</b>	Full name of third joint inventor: <b>Michael Sebekow</b>
Unterschrift des Erfinders 	Datum 15.02.02
Wohnsitz Berlin, Deutschland (DE)	Residence Berlin, Germany
Staatsangehörigkeit Deutsch	Citizenship German
Postanschrift Spinolastr. 8 13125 Berlin, Deutschland	Post Office Address Spinolastr. 8 13125 Berlin, Germany
Voller Name des vierten Miterfinders: <b>Guenter Seidler-Stahl</b>	
Unterschrift des Erfinders 	Datum 02.02.02
Wohnsitz Berlin, Deutschland (DE)	Residence Berlin, Germany
Staatsangehörigkeit Deutsch	Citizenship German
Postanschrift Sternstr. 11 13359 Berlin, Deutschland	Post Office Address Sternstr. 11 13359 Berlin, Germany
Voller Name des fünften Miterfinders: <b>Ingo Thiede</b>	
Unterschrift des Erfinders 	Datum 08.02.02
Wohnsitz Berlin, Deutschland (DE)	Residence Berlin, Germany
Staatsangehörigkeit DE	Citizenship DE
Postanschrift Fregestr. 76 12159 Berlin	Post Office Address Fregestr. 76 12159 Berlin
Voller Name des sechsten Miterfinders: <b>Sezai Tuerkmen</b>	
Unterschrift des Erfinders 	Datum 08.02.02
Wohnsitz Berlin, Deutschland (DE)	Residence Berlin, Germany
Staatsangehörigkeit Deutsch	Citizenship German
Postanschrift Schuckertdamm 334 13629 Berlin, Deutschland	Post Office Address Schuckertdamm 334 13629 Berlin, Germany

(Bitte entsprechende Informationen und Unterschriften im Falle von dritten und weiteren Miterfindern angeben).

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors).